

WRITERS MEET

"We are a special breed." In those words, spoken in a chapel at Arlington National Cemetery on July 25, Marvin Stone described why Korean war correspondents travel thousands of miles, decade after decade, to renew friendships forged in the Korean fighting.

"I know of no other group such as ours that keeps meeting year after year," Stone told about 50 writers, broadcasters and photographers from the Korean war, who gathered in Washington on July 23-25 to mark the 40th anniversary of the armistice that ended Korean fighting but failed to unite North

and South Korea.

Without any formal organization, committees or officers, Korean war correspondents, now in their 60s to 80s, have met in a number of reunions since the 1950-53 conflict.

Stone, an INS writer in Korea and later an executive editor of *US News & World Report*, credited this comradeship in part "to living in close quarters" in the 8th Army press billet in Seoul, and on a railroad car parked on a siding at Munsan-ni during the long Panmunjom truce talks.

John Rich, an NBC reporter in Korea, spoke about news correspondents in all wars. "Soldiers have to go up to the front," he said. "Correspondents don't, but they do to seek the truth."

Retired Col. Dan Biondi, an 8th Army public information officer during the Korean fighting, commented on a difference between Korean war correspondents and many of the reporters who covered the Vietnam and Gulf Wars.

Most of the American reporters in Korea understood the military from their own experiences in World War II, either as servicemen or correspondents, Biondi said.

Stone, Rich and Biondi were speakers at a remembrance ceremony honoring 18 journalists killed during the United Nations police action in Korea. The ceremony at Arlington Cemetery was sponsored by No Greater Love, an organization founded and directed by Carmella LaSpada to provide friendship and care for persons who lost loved ones in wars or acts of terrorism.

Max Desfor, retired AP photographer and the only survivor among eight Korean war Pulitzer Prize winners, organized the three-day reunion.

At dinner in the South Korean embassy, Ambassador Seung Soo Han told the correspon-

dents that his government had learned some lessons from Germany's reunification.

"The cost of unifying East Germany into West Germany has been high, and we would not do what Germany did in economic unification," Han said. "We want a more carefully planned unification."

—*The OPC's Al Kaff was a United Press correspondent during the Korean war.*

LOOKING FOR A PAD IN EUROPE?

Are you looking for an apartment to rent on the French Riviera or near London? If so, longtime OPCer **Doris Macauley** is the person to contact. Her son, Ted, also an OPC member, as is her husband, Thurston, offers for rent or sale his three-bedroom, two-bath apartment that overlooks Villefranche Bay on the road to Monte Carlo. For details, write Doris Macauley at Agrianthe, Figuier D-IE, Blvd. Princess Grace, 06230 Villefranche-sur-Mer, France.

OPC Bulletin
ISSN-0738-7202
Monthly except August.
\$24/year included in dues. Copyright © 1993 Overseas Press Club of America.

Editor:
Amy Sivco

Associate Editor:
Al Kaff,
Gerry McGuire

ADDRESS CHANGE: OPC,
320 East 42nd St.,
Mezzanine,
New York, N.Y.
10017

OPC CALENDAR 304 EAST 42ND ST. RESERVATIONS 983-4655 LODGING, MEALS 986-8800

Protect...

Continued from p. 3

March, contains good, practical suggestions that can be applied in danger zones around the globe.

The CPJ stresses the importance of adequate preparation before leaving on a foreign assignment and the need to set ground rules with editors or producers on handling risky situations. Other topics covered include purchasing insurance; obtaining first-aid instruction as well as a first-aid manual, kit and a Medicalert bracelet; get-

ting and making the commitment to wear body armor or flak jackets; suggestions for making contacts in the region; and tips for safe travel and prudent approaches when interviewing or photographing subjects.

More than 240 American and U.S.-employed foreign journalists and technicians who have died while on foreign assignments since 1935 are the subject of a book being written by Charles P. Arnot, a retired ABC newsmen and an active OPC member since 1956. Arnot, of Prescott, Ariz., also recounts events from his own 35-year career as a correspondent.

"It has become painfully clear that the foreign correspondent risks his or her life to bring us the truth," said Larry Smith, president of the Overseas

Press Club. "We will continue to speak out, as we have for the last 50 years, when we learn of journalists being intimidated in any way. Through the efforts of Norman Schorr and the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee, we will keep protesting abuses of press freedom around the world and support the remarkable journalists who keep getting the story out despite the dangers of abduction, injury or death."

Caryn Friedman is a senior librarian at PARADE Magazine.

To obtain a copy of the CPJ advisory booklet, send a check for \$5 to: Andy Carroll, Committee To Protect Journalists, 12th Floor, 330 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001.

• THE OPC CALENDAR •

Here's the rundown of upcoming programs and events planned by the OPC:

• **On Thursday, Sept. 22**, a luncheon will be held at the Hyatt Regency in New York City. There will be a panel, discussing international press coverage by the American media. See page 1 for details.

• **On Thursday, Sept. 30**, a "Hello Party" is planned for new members (and veterans) at The Tudor, 5:30 PM.

The Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.
320 East 42nd Street, Mezzanine
New York, NY 10017 USA

"You won't believe what happened when I went in that tent," Jean told me. "Those women started taking off their clothes. They wanted me to pay them for pictures." We pursed our lips like regular guardians of Islamic morality. As we sped away, we saw the snake-charmer chief waving a cobra at us. "Come back," he seemed to be saying. "We have bigger snakes."

Deborah Scroggins won the OPC award this year for best foreign correspondent showing concern for the human condition. She works for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

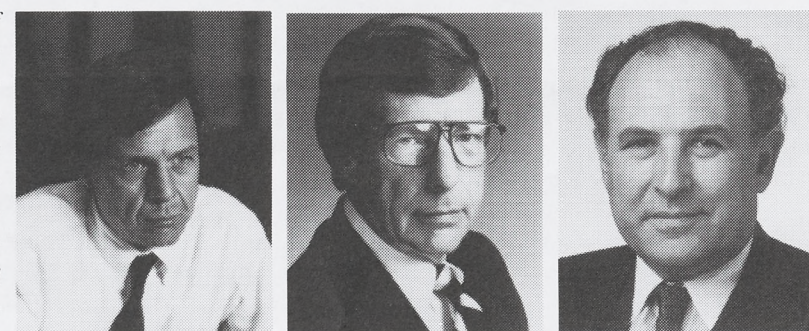
OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA 304 EAST 42ND ST. NY, NY SEPTEMBER 1993

OPC Bulletin

Americans are dangerously out of touch with the world, says Rosenblum

Can We Cover the Globe?

Perhaps millions of Americans now think that, with the Cold War over, global coverage is not a matter of great importance. Well, they're wrong, obviously. How wrong they are will be forcefully demonstrated in the Overseas Press Club panel discussion this month featuring Henry Muller, the editorial director of Time Inc.



How does American media cover the world? That's the topic of the Sept. 22 luncheon, featuring (l-r) Muller of Time, Turner of CNN and Gwertzman of The New York Times.

and a newly elected member of the OPC Board of Governors; Bernard Gwertzman, foreign editor of The New York Times; and Ed Turner, executive vice president of CNN, who is responsible for all the network's newsgather-

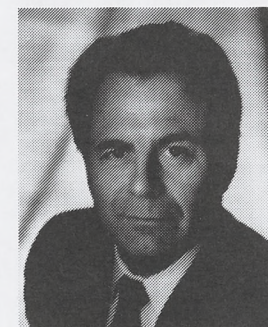
ing resources. The discussion, which will take place over lunch in Ballroom B at the Hyatt on 42nd Street next to Grand Central, is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 22. Tickets are \$40 for members, \$42.50 for nonmembers

and, if you buy them at the door, \$42.50 for everyone. The urgency of our program is conveyed by the following article by Mort Rosenblum, author of "Who Stole The News?," due in October from John Wiley & Sons. Rosenblum works for the AP in Paris.

BY MORT ROSENBLUM
The irony is harrowing: Foreign correspondents have never been better equipped for their work, and never have they been so necessary. Yet most

Continued on p. 2

The Year Ahead: A Message from the President



Larry Smith, President

the need for a strong, active Overseas Press Club.

The people working overseas need backup, not only from their own organizations but also from stalwarts like

the Committee to Protect Journalists and the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee, under Norman Schorr.

The August *Bulletin*, with its reprint of a letter of explanation from the President of Colombia, Cesar Gaviria Trujillo, to Schorr, shows the extent to which even heads of state are impressed when the OPC sends a protest.

To increase its effectiveness and perhaps save lives, the club needs more members. It needs active contributors. To join or get involved, call me at (212) 573-7181, or call Mary Novick, our manager, at (212) 983-4655.

As the lead article on this page indicates, we're starting the 1993-94 year

with a timely and important subject of critical concern to every American correspondent working overseas—How do newspapers, magazines and television cover the globe? At least part of the answer appears to be: Not so hot.

To get the real scoop, come to lunch at the Hyatt and learn first-hand what

Continued on p. 2

What's ahead...

Page 1: President's Message

Page 3: Protecting Reporters

Page 4: Under the Islamic Veil

Globe...

Continued from p. 1

Americans are hopelessly, and dangerously, out of touch with the world.

What clearer example than Bosnia? While visiting New York in August, I heard intelligent people argue that Americans really had no role. The situation was too confusing. Everyone was at fault, they said. Mayhem is a Balkan sport, they said; it's in the blood. Anyway, a lot of people seemed to feel, the victims were only Muslims, after all.

Reporters who have watched up close lean toward the judgment of Blaine Harden of *The Washington Post*: It is as complicated as armed robbery. No one is all right or all wrong, and the roots reach into history. But Serb leaders—not all Serbs, by any means—have been committing genocide for more than a year, and Western resolve could have prevented it.

Who stole this news? Who stole the news that Africa never stopped starving after the “We Are the World” frenzy in 1984, that timely international action could have averted calamity in Somalia, Sudan and other places it will strike next? What about the spiritual depression in Europe, war in Central Asia, or all those uncovered stories among the shards of the Soviet Empire?

An obvious answer is that managers with an eye on quarterly earnings reject news for news' sake in favor of something they think will hold fickle audiences in tight markets. It's the old dilemma: Do you give 'em what they need, or what they want?

But we all share the blame, from correspondents who cut corners, to editors with too heavy a hand at the

gates, to the consumers who do not demand better, and thus perpetuate the myth that no one cares. To change this, we must rally around a simple reality: What people need and what they want are really one and the same.

As big as it seems, the “media” is a loosely knit group of cottage industries, each susceptible to the will of its clientele. If correspondents and editors can better explain why foreign news is crucial, we'll reach those people who want more. Aroused customers brought back Classic Coke. They ought to be able to keep us from ignorance in a perilous world.

The reporters are out there. An earlier *OPC Bulletin* relayed the good news in Ralph Kliensch's recent census of fulltime people working abroad for U.S. news organizations. They total nearly 2,000, compared to 676 in 1975. The bad news is that they are often in the same place, pursuing what the swarm's radar determines to be a story. Vital news elsewhere is ignored.

New trends complicate the picture. Television rushes to offer “real-time” coverage, even when cameras show only a correspondent riffling desperately next to a bunch of parked cars. Too often, newspapers try to compete with TV rather than play to their own strengths. Official handlers manipulate “the media,” whipping up resentment among people who blame the messengers for the message. And so on.

We must discuss these issues, often and at length. In the end, foreign correspondents have to get across to readers and viewers a basic truth: If we're not there, you're not there.

Ed. note: Rosenblum's book will be reviewed in a subsequent issue of *The Bulletin*.

President...

Continued from p. 1

three leading professionals have to say and then, when they finish, ask a few questions of your own. Call Mary Novick, and make a reservation now.

While you're at it, sign up for the next event eight days later, at The Tudor, where we'll be greeting and feting (sorry) new members. Come and meet some of our new Governors, whom you elected: John Corporon of WPXI; John R. MacArthur of Harper's Magazine; Henry Muller of Time, Inc.; Andrew Nibley of Reuters; Ponchitta Pierce, the writer; Kitty Pilgrim of CNN; Robert E. Sullivan of Worldwide Television News; and John Polich of Fordham, as associate governor.

Among the goals outlined in this space a year ago were a vital, growing membership, a good home, good programs, a good *Bulletin*, a strong Freedom of the Press arm, and get-together now and then, just for the fun of it. (We welcome suggestions.)

Since then, we moved into The Tudor, which, besides its amenities, saves us a bundle. The program committee had an excellent year and we acquired a fax, via NYNEX, and a computer, from Allan Dodds Frank.

Our April awards dinner recognized major talent and accomplishment, Reuters produced a brilliant issue of *Dateline* while the OPC Foundation, under H.L. Stevenson, awarded scholarships and put on a splendid daylong seminar.

More lively programs will follow, you can be sure, in what promises to be an action-packed, provocative year. Come see our pictures hanging in the bar at The Tudor. Come to the programs. We're a “Happening Club.”

What Are We Doing To Protect Correspondents?

BY CARYN FRIEDMAN

The killing of at least two dozen correspondents over the past year, along with the growing number who have been harassed, intimidated, kidnapped or subjected to other human rights violations, all too plainly demonstrates how journalists have become the target as they simply try to do their work—to bring issues to world attention and keep us informed.

What's being done to protect the correspondent in the field? News agencies tend to be close-mouthed, but it's clear that many journalists are being encouraged, at the very least, to wear bullet-proof vests.

Less than two months ago, on July 12, Hansi Krauss, an Associated Press photographer, along with two Reuters photographers, Dan Eldon and Hosea D. Maina, and a Reuters sound technician, Anthony Macharia, were savagely attacked and killed by a hostile crowd of Somalis in Mogadishu.

And a year ago, David Kaplan, a veteran ABC News producer, was killed by sniper fire while on assignment in Sarajevo. Up to that point, at

least two dozen other reporters had been killed in the region following the disintegration of the Yugoslav Federation into civil war in June 1991.

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reports that 1,344 members of the press were attacked in war zones or in nations with repressive regimes during 1992. All told, 28 journalists were listed as killed or missing for the year. As of mid-July this year, CPJ had documented the slayings of 24 journalists, with the conflicts in Bosnia and Somalia leading the count, each having claimed the lives of five journalists. At this rate, deaths this year could surpass those of 1992.

In light of these tragedies and the more recent attacks on journalists in Nicaragua and southeastern Turkey, the OPC asked various news organizations what steps were being taken to safeguard their correspondents overseas.

While little in the way of formal communication on safety guidelines seems to exist between news organizations and their journalists, there is a consensus among representatives of

the Associated Press, Reuters and *The New York Times*, that policy on safety precautions is best discussed privately between editor and correspondent.

All told, 28 journalists were listed as killed or missing in 1992. This year, 24 have been slain.

Bob Crooke of Reuters America Division acknowledged that recent attacks on journalists “were not incidental instances,” and noted, “Reuters’ safety policies are quite stringent.” He added, “Employees are under fairly strict and well known orders to remain safe. Although, there is always the potential for the unexpected.”

The Associated Press has no written policy on safety measures but Vin Alabiso, the executive photo editor, said correspondents and photographers were privately briefed and received background information on strife and conflict-related work. Journalists are also provided with and strongly encouraged to wear bulletproof garments, but “it remains the individual's call,” he said. In recalling the death of Hansi Krauss, Alabiso said, “Every organization needs to think long and hard about how it's covering what it's covering.”

In response to the high number of press casualties in the Balkan conflict, the CPJ published, for the first time, a journalists' advisory on safety procedures and survival tactics entitled, “How to Survive and Still Get the Story.” The advisory, updated last

Continued on p. 6

Two veiled reporters learn travails of life in Mideast

Islamic Women Duck Camera Clicks

BY DEBORAH SCROGGINS

I had traveled and worked in the Middle East on and off for 11 years when photographer Jean Shiffrin and I set off to investigate the way Islamic fundamentalism was changing the lives of women in the region. But as a foreigner and a political reporter, I had always moved in the world of men. If I always felt a little uneasy about my status as an honorary man, I also enjoyed the freedoms it offered.

But on this trip, Jean and I were honorary women. We tried to behave, and people tried to treat us, as if we deserved as much respect as Muslim women. But honorary status is never the same as the real thing. In Pakistan and Afghanistan, we bought local pajama-like suits and covered ourselves in veils. But somehow we always stuck out.

Jean's photographs were a daily problem. She sent a postcard with a picture of hooded women back to the newspaper from Pakistan. “Things are going fine,” she wrote on the back. “I just can't take any pictures of the women.”

Even in Turkey, fundamentalist women who seemed perfectly relaxed chatting with us tensed up when Jean pulled out her camera. Even though Jean was female, they did not want male newspaper readers to see photographs of them without their veils.

Pakistani and Afghan men loved having their pictures taken at home. Jean wasted rolls of film on men who

We bought local pajama-like suits and covered ourselves in veils. But somehow we always stuck out.

demanded pictures of themselves and their friends in every conceivable pose. But men were not so pleased to have a woman photograph ordinary male streetlife. One day in Peshawar, Jean tried to take pictures of men buying fruits and vegetables. The men chased us and our translator out the bazaar, howling such terrible insults in Pushto

that the translator burst into tears.

Jean and I started covering our hair with a light shawl in Peshawar, Pakistan. But adjusting to the eerie *chadri* required in Afghanistan took more time. We tried to practice walking around our hotel in the full-length veils, peering out of the mesh-covered eye-holes. Practice did not make perfect.

When we set off from Peshawar at 4 a.m., I tripped several times trying to climb into the truck under the masses of fabric. Subsequent gaffes kept everyone hooting for 17 bumpy hours.

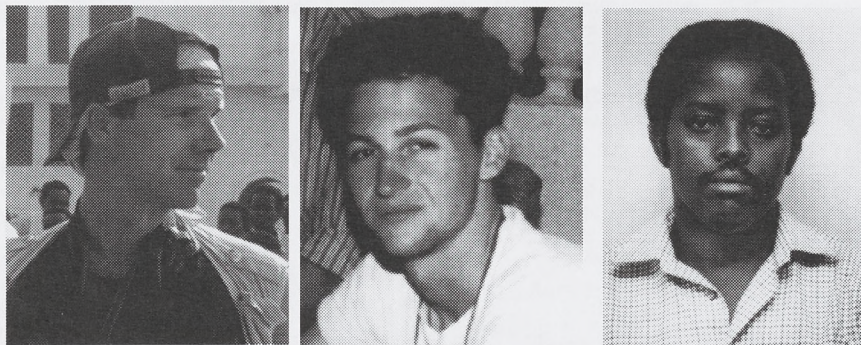
Nasima Habibzoda, our translator, was more sympathetic. She showed us how to pile the front of *chadri* on top of our heads when the truck was in open country—and how to flap it down quickly if a car approached. She told us how to act if, for example, the men stopped for tea in bazaar or at a guerrilla checkpoint. Any time strange men could see the truck, the rules were: Turn away from the window, do not speak, look down at pretty colors light makes through the pastel *chadri*.

Jean was infuriated when the men left us muffled like that in the truck while they went off on mysterious errands. But—seen through the eye-hole—she looked so comical sputtering beneath her golden *chadri* that Nasima and I could only laugh. The men thought it was a great joke too when they came back. “*Chadri* is fun play, no?” chuckled Syed Hassan, one of the general's sons.

We were so used to Islamic mores that we were shocked when we came across a woman breaking the rules.

I was trying to interview the henna-

Continued on p. 6



Three Reuters employees and an AP man were killed by a mob of Somalis following a United Nations helicopter raid in July. Those killed were (l-r) Hansi Krauss, an AP photographer; Dan Eldon, a photographer; Hosea D. Maina, a photographer; and Anthony Macharia, a television sound technician (not shown).